

Louisiana Hotlines



A Newsletter of the State Library of Louisiana
Talking Books and Braille Library
Office of Lt. Governor, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Vol. 21 No. 4

Fall 2021

Holiday closings

Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Nov. 25-26	Thanksgiving
Dec. 24	Christmas

Virtual Louisiana Book Festival 2021 October 30 - November 13

Instead of holding an in-person Louisiana Book Festival this year, the State Library of Louisiana will host a number of virtual programs that will be made available through the festival and State Library of Louisiana websites.

Here are those web addresses:

www.louisianabookfestival.org and

<https://www.state.lib.la.us>. New content will be uploaded every weekend. More than 30 programs and over 70 authors will be featured.

Adult Summer Reading Program update

The 2021 TBBL Adult Summer Reading Program is now complete. Thank you to all the TBBL readers who made our Adult Summer Reading Program a success! Over 100 TBBL patrons completed the program by reading 20 or more books. From these, 30 names will be drawn to win one of our prizes,

a set of headphones that will work with your NLS digital book reader. These prizes are being mailed to the home addresses of the winners. Also, special thanks to the Jones Foundation who generously paid for the Adult Summer Reading Program prizes.

Federal Disaster Assistance

The fastest way to apply for disaster assistance is through DisasterAssistance.gov.

You can also apply by calling 800.621.3362 (TTY 800.462.7585) or through the FEMA mobile app.

Disaster Distress Helpline

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has a Disaster Distress Helpline that offers 24/7 counseling. Call or text the Disaster Distress Helpline at 800.985.5990 for support and counseling. The Disaster Distress Helpline is a national hotline that provides 24/7, year-round crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is

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available to all residents in the United States and its territories. Calls and texts are answered by trained, caring counselors from crisis call centers located throughout the United States.

Hurricane Ida emergency information and important contacts

The State of Louisiana has prepared a website with emergency information for those affected by Hurricane Ida. Here are some important contacts and information about hurricane recovery:

- For Hurricane Ida information and shelter information, call 211 or Text "Lashelter" to 898211, or visit 211la.org.
- For Tarps and Clean Up Assistance if you are a person in need, call 844.965.1386 or visit Crisiscleanup.org.
- If you want to volunteer, call 225.342.2038.
- For Road Closure Information, Call 511 or 888.762.3511.
- To contact the Louisiana State Police, call 225.925.6325.
- The New Shelter Staging Point is at Zephyr Stadium 6000 Airline Dr., Metairie Red Cross, 866.438.4636.
- For more information, visit <https://gohsep.la.gov/emergency/Hurricanelda>.

Annual State Convention of the NFBL

You are cordially invited to attend the 2021 Annual State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana (NFBL). The NFBL is an organization of blind and visually impaired Louisianans who believe that

with the appropriate training, attitude, and opportunities, blind people can live the lives they want.

The convention is November 5-7, 2021 and will be held at the Crowne Plaza, 4728 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Check the website or opportunities to pre-register or contact 800.234.4166 for pre-registration forms to be mailed to you. Pre-registration forms must be in by October 18th. For more information you may also visit their website at <https://www.nfbla.org/state-convention>. A TBBL representative will attend the convention.

ABL 2021 Convention

Affiliated Blind of Louisiana would like to invite you to this year's convention from November 19-20 at the Holiday Inn Lafayette North, 2219 NW Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, LA. The theme for this year is Livin' ABL Strong. Events feature the Rock'n'Bowl Social, dynamic speakers, general session, business meeting, and exhibitors. To register, call 337.706.8199 or visit <https://app.mobilecause.com/e/8Q5hZw?vid=lm8n0>

New title for BookTalks

Our BookTalks Fall Book Selection will be:

DB96770

The Body: A Guide for Occupants
by Bill Bryson.

Guides readers through the human body—how it functions, its remarkable ability to heal itself, and the ways it can fail. Using facts—your body made a million red blood cells since you started reading this—and anecdotes, creates a deeper understanding of the miracle that is you.

How to join BookTalks

We hold our book discussions via an email discussion list. Members comment on the book by sending an email to the discussion list. All members then see the comments and have the ability to respond by email to the group. If you want to join our discussion group, go to: <http://pelican.state.lib.la.us/mailman/listinfo/tbblbooktalks> and create an account by entering your name (make sure to put your name so we can verify you), email address and make up a password or, as always, you can call your reader adviser.

BookTalks book club

If you join BookTalks, we will add you to our mailing list and automatically send you a digital book copy of the newest selection. I hope that this will make it more convenient to read the book and participate in the discussion.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Fall book recommendations

by Sneha Padumane

DB74083 *Leviathan Wakes*

by James S. A. Corey. When Jim Holden and the crew of his ice miner stumble upon the derelict ship Scopuli, they uncover a dangerous secret.

DB81643 *The Blue Zones Solution*

by Dan Buettner. Focuses on the eating habits of five areas of the world with a high percentage of long-living inhabitants.

DB72121 *At Home: A Short History of Private Life* by Bill Bryson. Author uses his home, a nineteenth-century English church rectory, to frame a history of domestication.

DB81411 *Prodigal Son*

by Danielle Steel. When investment banker Peter McDowell's life implodes, he has nowhere to go but to the lake house he inherited from his parents. Wary of meeting his estranged twin Michael, Peter is hopeful of a repaired relationship, until journals reveal secrets.

DB99277 *The Blind Truth: An Inside "Look" at Living and Loving Life while Visually Impaired* by Woody Livingston.

A collection of essays in which the author discusses life with Usher syndrome. He recounts how, with the help of a cane, cochlear implants, and faith in God, he has taken charge of his own life.

DB100906 *The Midnight Library*

by Matt Haig. After she attempts suicide, Nora wakes up in a mysterious library. The shelves are full of books, each the story of another reality.

DB88903 *Magpie Murders*

by Anthony Horowitz. While reading the latest manuscript in mystery writer Alan Conway's detective series, Susan Ryeland, head of fiction at Cloverleaf Books, learns that Conway has died. Suspicious, she begins investigating his death—and looks to his book for clues.

DB73772 *Ready Player One*

by Ernest Cline. 2045. Multibillionaire James Halliday dies, leaving his last will and testament online for the world to see. His multiplayer online game OASIS has a hidden feature—an Easter egg—and the person who finds the egg first wins Halliday's fortune.

Books and Beyond A Section for Children and Teens

LCB offers two scholarships in 2021

The Louisiana Council of the Blind (LCB) will award two scholarships at the 2021 State Convention. The Hazel Diagle and Paula Marshall Scholarships recognize the achievement of blind scholars in Louisiana. Each scholarship is \$1000.00; \$500.00 for the fall semester and spring semester. The deadline for scholarship applications is November 12, 2021. For current information, and to receive an application packet, contact Gwen King, LCB Scholarship Committee, 7707 Bismark Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70812; or call 225.278.4162. LCB President Leola Campbell may also be contacted by phone at: 225.614.5988.

White Cane Safety Day, October 14th

The Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired will be celebrating White Cane Safety Day on Thursday, October 14, 2021. A variety of family inclusive activities will take place on the school campus. For further information, contact LSVI Outreach Coordinator Blanche Faulk at 225.757.3489.

Summer Reading 2021

The Summer Reading 2021 slogan was "**Tails & Tales**," focusing on all things about animals. We had 47 participants this year. TBBL prepared a mixed Grab 'N' Go bag for each participant. The bags contained various games, incentives, craft supplies, and instructions, including coloring and paint sheets. We included the traditional reading folder with bibliography, reading log, pencils, bookmarks, and stickers. Upon

completing the program, each reader received a forest green Summer Reading t-shirt with the Tortoise & the Hare reading books together, an achievement certificate, printed animal bracelet, and wooden snake toy. Special thanks to Robyn King and her dedicated staff and volunteers at the Louisiana Instructional Materials Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired for providing Braille service for our young patrons. Our most gracious thanks goes out to the Jones Foundation for their generous support in providing Summer Reading incentives. We simply would not have had a Summer Reading Program this year without your help and dedication to promoting literacy throughout Louisiana.

We want to know what you think!

A survey will be mailed out in October to current and past participants of the Summer Reading Program. We are planning new activities for next year's theme, "Oceans of Possibilities" that focuses on oceans and aquatic life. And, we are seeking patron input. Answering our Summer Reading survey will really help. We look forward to hearing from you.

Need homework help? Check out HomeworkLA

If you need homework help, the State Library of Louisiana offers an online resource available at www.homeworkla.org. Homework Louisiana provides live tutoring for grades K-12, college and adult education, test preparation, and job search assistance to all Louisiana residents. Academic tutoring is now available from 2 p.m. to

midnight seven days a week. Self-study tools for AP, ACT/SAT, and GED are also available 24/7. In addition, there is a “connect with voice” option for the visually impaired. Students may now access this service from any internet-connected computer or mobile device during these hours; even from a school campus after 2:00 pm. Homework Louisiana is funded in part with a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the State Library of Louisiana and your local public library.

2020-2021 Louisiana Young Readers’ Choice nominees

The 2021-2022 Louisiana Young Readers’ Choice program is a reading enrichment program of the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana. There are three categories: grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and Teen Readers’ Choice for grades 9-12. Students read from the nominated titles during 2021 and vote on their favorite by March 1, 2022. To qualify, students must be from Louisiana and have read three of the titles in the appropriate grade category for grades 3 through 8. Teens must read two titles from the LTRC nominated list. You can help decide who will win! To cast your vote, call 800.543.4702.

TBBL has these LYRC and LTRC titles.

Grades 3-5

BR22693, DB94979 *Because of the Rabbit* by Cynthia Lord

DB93595 *The Friendship War* by Andrew Clements

DB97218 *Just Like Beverly* by Vicki Conrad

DB101480 *Max & the Midknights* by Lincoln Peirce

DB93862 *Operation Frog Effect* by Sarah Lynn Scheerger

DB95482 *Spark* by Sarah Beth Durst

DB97011 *Stay* by Bobbie Pyron

DB96177 *Tito the Bonecrusher* by Melissa Thomson

Grades 6-8

DB93908, DB103264 *Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia Williams

DB99006 *Maybe He Just Likes You* by Barbara Dee

DB94151 *New Kid* by Jerry Craft

DB95019, LP26276 *The Next Great Paulie Fink* by Ali Benjamin

DB96396 *Other words for Home* by Jasmine Warga

DB94721 *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* by Dan Gemeinhart

DB94644 *The Strangers: Greystone Secrets* by Margaret Peterson Haddix

DB97719 *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia

Teen choice

DB96993 *The Downstairs Girl* by Stacey Lee

DB98095 *Ordinary Hazards* by Nikki Grimes

DB96003 *Patron Saints of Nothing* by Randy Ribay

DB99185 *Slay* by Brittany Morris

DB93762 *Two Can Keep a Secret* by Karen M. McManus

BR22770, DB95376 *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo

News in brief

BARD Express updated

A new update to BARD Express, a stand-alone application that allows Windows users to more easily browse and obtain books from the Braille and Audio Reading Download, was released the week of May 31. Version 2.5.54.16 is supported by Windows 8.1 through 10.X operating systems. New features include:

- Organization of the Previous Downloads list by Type, Subject, or Author.
- Easier cancelation of searches using either the new Cancel button or the Escape key.
- Quick navigation to the Search field using the Control + S shortcut.
- Announcement of the Author label when a user tabs through Book Details, and the ability to select the name of the author to bring up a list of all their available books.

For more information, visit the BARD Express user guide at <https://go.usa.gov/x6QWj>.

New publication: Foreign Language Quarterly

Patrons seeking foreign language materials may now find them more easily. The recently launched *Foreign Language Quarterly (FLQ)*, available at www.loc.gov/nls/flq, lists popular foreign language books recently added to the NLS collection and available through our network of cooperating libraries. Many of these books come to us from other countries via the Marrakesh Treaty, but patrons will also find books produced by NLS and converted from

cassette tapes. All books listed in *FLQ* are available for immediate download from BARD. The new publication also provides directions on how to use new BARD features that allow users to search for materials in a specific language.

BARD Mobile for Android now supports refreshable braille displays

Braille readers with Android devices may now use BARD Mobile for Android to read ebraille books and magazines downloaded from BARD. Version 1.4 of BARD Mobile for Android, which works with Android OS 7 through 11, connects to refreshable braille displays via the BrailleBack app. A full list of supported displays may be found at <https://bit.ly/3r9T71g>. The new Android version offers users adjustable settings for braille reflow and braille autoscroll. To learn more about these features and find instructions for setting up BrailleBack, visit the BARD Mobile Android User Manual at www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access/bard-mobile-android.

Speech Central app now free

Voice Reader Speech Central, a text to speech app for iOS devices that can read ebooks, websites, and PDFs aloud, is now free for blind and visually impaired users. To determine eligibility, the app will automatically detect if you are using VoiceOver during the installation process. The app also integrates with Bookshare. For more information, visit <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/speech-central-voice-reader/id1127349155>.

Support our TBBL friends organization

The Jones Foundation acknowledges the following donors for their generous contributions:

Lea Culp on behalf of Al Duncan
Jennifer Harrison in memory of Elonwy Neer

Since 1981, the Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation has acted as a friends group for the Talking Books and Braille Library in the State Library of Louisiana.

It provides a mechanism for accepting donations to enhance and support services to the blind and physically handicapped community statewide.

It directly supplements the programs and initiatives of TBBL within the State Library. It is a primary sponsor of the State Library's large print collection, TBBL's summer reading program, staff enrichment, and early literacy program.

To contribute, make checks payable to the Foundation and mail to the following address:

Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation
1131 N. River Road
Port Allen, LA 70767

All donations are tax deductible. Anyone who makes a donation receives a one-year membership to the Jones Foundation. For meeting information, call Shelia Coleman at 225.342.4942.

The Jones Foundation is seeking board members. The board meets three times a year in Baton Rouge. Call Shelia Coleman if you would like to be considered for a board position.

TBBL Directory

Library address

Talking Books & Braille Library
701 N. Fourth St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Phone numbers

Baton Rouge: 225.342.0035
Statewide: 1.800.543.4702
Fax: 225.342.6817

Special services

Music section: 800.424.8567
Braille service: 800.453.4293

Email

tbbl@state.lib.la.us
tbblkids@state.lib.la.us

Walk-in hours

Monday – Thursday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Phone and email hours

Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Library services

Audio books and magazines
Braille books and magazines
Large print books and big books
Online catalog
BARD download service
BARD mobile apps
Newspaper reading service

Eligibility

Any Louisiana resident who is unable to read or use standard print materials as a result of a temporary or permanent visual or physical limitation is eligible to receive free library services.

State Library of Louisiana
Talking Books and Braille Library
701 N. Fourth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**

Special format library materials are loaned
to qualified patrons by

Talking Books and Braille Library

State Library of Louisiana

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Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

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